

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps

# THE VIGILEER

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Aviano Air Base, Italy

## Fly Bys

### POV inspections

The 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron POV Inspections office offers winter vehicle safety inspections for all U.S. ID card holders through Dec. 30 at the POV inspection station, Bldg. 43 in the Aviano Industrial Area. The inspections office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call Ext. 4458.

### Promotions

The following Aviano members were selected for promotion to colonel: John Jordan, 31st Communications Squadron; Michael Kucej, 31st Maintenance Group; Charlie Moore, 555th Fighter Squadron and Joe Guastella, former 555th FS commander.

### Office moves

The Sexual Assault Response Coordinator staff has moved to Bldg. 220 in Area Two. Their telephone number, Ext. 7272, remains the same. The First Term Airman's Center and career assistance advisor also moved to Bldg. 220. The Airman Leadership School has moved into the renovated Mensa dining facility in Area Two.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Randy Mallard

Senior Airman Dominick Griego, 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron, performs a bottle method test on fuel. This is done to ensure nothing but 'on-spec' fuel is delivered to an aircraft. The 31st LRS recently won USAFE's Golden Drum award. For full story, see page 7.

## Air Force releases new mission statement

**By Master Sgt.  
Mitch Gettle**  
*Air Force Print News*

The realities of the world have changed dramatically since the creation of the Air Force in 1947 and continue to change almost daily.

With these changes in mind, Air Force leaders released a new mission state-

ment Dec. 7 that defines the current and future direction of the Air Force.

"Today, our world is fast paced, constantly shifting and filled with a wide range of challenges," Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley wrote in a joint Letter to Airmen. "Our mission is our guiding compass, and

now more than ever we need it to be clear and precise."

The mission statement defines the "where and what" the Air Force accomplishes on a daily basis:

The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global inter-

**See Mission, Page 5**

**Adoption:** To sign up for the Adopt-an-Airman program, call Staff Sgt. Audrey Kiefer at Ext. 2741 or log on to the Aviano Intranet.

### 31st FW Sortie Board

sortie: n, a flight of a combat aircraft on a mission

	Hours	Sorties
31st FW goal	1116.3	654
	<b>+367.6</b>	<b>+33</b>

Information current as of Thursday.



### It's a girl!

One Aviano family kept 'connected' during the birth of their daughter while dad was deployed downrange.

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### Got Milk?

This week at Aviano, volunteers rolled, cut and decorated hundreds of cookies for dorm residents during the annual cookie drive.

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## 31st Fighter Wing

# Commander's Corner

**By Brig. Gen. Robert Yates**  
*31st Fighter Wing commander*

**W**orld's Finest- Season's greetings! What a great couple of weeks for the 31st Fighter Wing – last week featured your promising performance in our major exercise and an energetic commander's call/wing fitness fun run.

This week you hit the ground running with normal flight and fight activities, while the spouses ran with the Airman's Cookie Drive and Spouse it Up. Of course, the icing on the cake was a visit by Mr. Jimmy Bedford and his wife Ms. Emily, Chief Distiller from Jack Daniels. The Bedfords spent the week here at 'bella' Aviano Air Base spreading the good word of responsible drinking and commitment to excellence in all we do, no matter what we do! And tonight we end the week on an exciting note as the wing hosts our Italian Honorary Squadron Commanders at a festive Holiday Reception at the La Bella Vista Club!

Wednesday, as I traversed the halls of wing headquarters, I was a bit gloomy.

Then I met a smiling lady in one office who said to me, "Sir, there's so much good going on here!" Perhaps she had just come from Spouse It Up? The Cookie Drive? Combat deployment training? The Fitness Center? I really don't know, but I can assure you it meant a lot to me. Like you, I had lost my focus, lost my 'radar lock' on the forest and instead was dwelling on 'the trees.' Her kind remarks changed my mood immediately! I began to reflect upon all the good you all are doing, the holiday season – one of families and friends, feasts and fests – and it made my day. Her kindness transformed my mood and made my day!

I decided to share this with you to remind you all how well you're performing, and of all the good you are doing for



**See Finest, Page 20**

To the Airmen of the United States Air Force,

Almost 60 years ago the President and Congress created our Air Force. The world we live in today has changed dramatically over those six decades. Today, our world is fast paced, constantly shifting, and filled with a wide range of challenges. Our mission is our guiding compass, and now more than ever we need it to be clear and precise. Therefore, we have rewritten the Air Force's mission statement to define where and what we do...

*The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver Sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests – to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace.*

Our task is to provide the President, the Combatant Commanders, and our Nation with an array of options...options that are not limited by the tyranny of distance, the urgency of time, or the strength of our enemy's defenses. With one hand the Air Force can deliver humanitarian assistance to the farthest reaches of the globe, while with the other hand we can destroy a target anywhere in the world. This is the meaning of sovereign options and the essence of being a superpower. We will be the best at what we do, and we will accomplish our mission as part of a joint, coalition team.

Our adversaries will contest us across all of the domains: Land, Sea, Air, Space, and Cyberspace. As Airmen, it is our calling to dominate Air, Space, and Cyberspace. If we can decisively and consistently control these commons, then we will deter countless conflicts. If our enemies underestimate our resolve; then we will fly, fight, and destroy them.

The pioneers of airpower – Billy Mitchell, Hap Arnold, Curtis LeMay, Bennie Schriever – knew what their mission was: to fly and fight wherever our Nation calls. The Air Force's mission statement has evolved over time, but it does not change the nature of who we are or what we do. Our heritage has given us a limitless horizon. Just as our predecessors did in the past, we will continue to fly, to fight, and to win wherever we are called. We are the greatest Air Force in the world, because of you...because of your sacrifice, dedication, and skill. Keep up the great work!

  
Michael W. Wynne  
Secretary of the Air Force

  
T. Michael Moseley  
General, USAF

# Aviano Airmen receive non-judicial punishment

## Courtesy of the 31st Fighter Wing Legal Office

### 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

An airman basic was charged under Article 92 for willful dereliction of duty. For this misconduct, the Airman received 30 days extra duty, 30 days restriction and forfeiture of \$500 pay for one month.

An airman first class was charged under Article 134 for fleeing the scene of an accident. For this misconduct, the Airman received 20 days extra duty, with 10 days suspended, 30 days restriction, a reprimand and forfeiture of \$500 pay for one month.

A senior airman was charged under Article 112, possession of drugs. For this misconduct, the Airman received 45 days extra duty, reduction to E-3, suspended reduction to E-2, a reprimand and forfeiture of \$692 pay for two months.

### 31st Communications Squadron

An airman first class was charged under Article 86 for failure to go. For this misconduct, the Airman received 60 days restriction, a suspended reduction to E-2 and a reprimand.

### 31st Comptroller Squadron

A senior airman was charged under Article 128 for simple assault and Article 134 for being drunk and disorderly. For this misconduct, the Airman received a suspended reduction to E-3, a reprimand and forfeiture of \$150 pay for two months.

### 31st Dental Squadron

A senior airman was charged under Article 86 for failure to go. For this misconduct, the Airman received 14 days extra duty, a suspended reduction to E-3 and a reprimand.

### 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron

A senior airman was charged under Article 86 for failure to go; Article 134, drunkenness - incapacitation for duty and; Article 92 for violating a general order. For this misconduct, the Airman received 23 days extra duty, a suspended reduction to E-3, a reprimand and forfeiture of \$820 pay for one month.

### 31st Maintenance Squadron

An airman first class was charged under Article 111 for drunk driving. For this misconduct, the Airman received 45 days extra duty, 45 days restriction, reduction to E-2, a reprimand and forfeiture of \$692 pay for two months.

A senior airman was charged under Article 134 for adultery. For this misconduct, the Airman received 30 days extra duty, a suspended reduction to E-3, a reprimand and suspended forfeiture of \$500 pay for two months.

### 31st Security Forces Squadron

An airman first class was charged under Article 134 for being drunk and disorderly. For this misconduct, the Airman received 15 days extra duty, a suspended reduction to E-2 and suspended forfeiture of \$250 pay for one month.

An airman first class was charged under Article 111 for drunk driving. For this misconduct, the Airman received 30 days extra duty, suspended 15 days extra duty, 30 days restriction, a reduction to E-2, a reprimand and forfeiture of \$773 pay for two months.

A senior airman was charged under Article 121 for larceny. For this misconduct, the Airman received 30 days extra duty, suspended 15 days extra duty, a suspended reduction to E-3, a reprimand and forfeiture of \$250 pay for two months.

An airman was charged under Ar-

Punishment under Article 15, otherwise known as non-judicial punishment, is action by a service member's commander in response to suspected violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The commander determines if the service member committed the offense and, if so, imposes appropriate punishment. Service members always have the option to turn down an Article 15 and demand trial by court-martial.

Article 117 for provoking speech and Article 134 for being drunk and disorderly. For this misconduct, the Airman received 15 days extra duty, 15 days restriction, a suspended reduction to E-1, a reprimand and forfeiture of \$250 pay for one month.

An airman first class was charged under Article 134 for being drunk and disorderly and Article 128 for simple assault. For this misconduct, the Airman received 30 days extra duty, suspended 15 days extra duty, 30 days restriction, a reduction to E-2, a reprimand and suspended forfeiture of \$250 pay for one month.

### 724th Air Mobility Squadron

A senior airman was charged under Article 107 for making a false official statement and Article 134 for failure to pay debt. For this misconduct, the Airman received 30 days extra duty, reduction to E-3, a suspended reduction to E-2 and a reprimand.

**Late night reading:** The Aviano Base Library is open until midnight tonight and is offering all of its regular services.

## Mission, from page 1

ests – to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace.

The statement includes two new concepts, “sovereign options” and “cyberspace,” which the secretary and chief defined.

They said having sovereign options is the essence of being a superpower.

“Our task is to provide the president, the combatant commanders, and our nation with an array of options ... options that are not limited by the tyranny of distance, the urgency of time, or the strength of our enemy’s defenses,” they said. “With one hand the Air Force can deliver humanitarian assistance to the farthest reaches of the globe, while with the other hand we can destroy a target anywhere in the world.”

The term cyberspace includes network security, data transmission and the sharing of information.

“We have quite a few of our Airmen dedicated to cyberspace

... from security awareness, making sure the networks can’t be penetrated, as well as figuring out countermeasures,” Secretary Wynne said. “The Air Force is a natural leader in the cyber world and we thought it would be best to recognize that talent.”

Adversaries of the United States will use any method or venue necessary to contest America, and it is an Airman’s calling to dominate air, space and cyberspace, the leaders said.

“If we can decisively and consistently control these commons, then we will deter countless conflicts,” they said. “If our enemies underestimate our resolve, then we will fly, fight, and destroy them.”

Using past air power pioneers as examples of understanding the mission, they said, “The Air Force’s mission statement has evolved over time, but it does not change the nature of who we are or what we do.”

# 31st LRS Fuels Flight awarded Golden Drum

By Senior Airman  
Colleen Wronek

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron Fuels Management Flight has made history.

For the second year in a row, they earned the Golden Drum and will go on to compete for the American Petroleum Institute trophy award. The API trophy award recognizes the best fuels flight in the Air Force.

"This is the first time in the history of Aviano that we have won the award back-to-back," said Senior Master Sgt. Ronnie Brock, 31st LRS Fuels Management Flight chief.

The Golden Drum is a U.S. Air Forces in Europe-level award that recognizes fuel flight operations excellence.

"We never missed a drop. Even though we had one third of our flight in southwest Asia, we carried on business as usual," said Tech. Sgt. Ron Staten, 31st LRS NCOIC mobile distribution. "This flight is the best flight I've ever worked in. This award doesn't just show a few months of preparing for the evaluation, but what we've done throughout the year."

The Golden Drum's name is a spin-off on fuel storage drums. In addition to earning the award last year and this year, Aviano also earned it in 1994 and

1999.

"The second time in a row is more difficult to do," said Senior Airman Dominick Griego, 31st LRS fuels laboratory technician. "We have the same inspectors and already have a certain standard so we found a better way to display how effective we are."

After USAFE reviewed all the nomination packages, they selected Aviano as one of two bases to evaluate. The USAFE team traveled to Aviano and evaluated the flight's equipment, facility care, job knowledge and processes.

"Our people are what won this award. I'm very proud of them," Sergeant Brock said. "Our people put in a lot of overtime to make this happen. Some just came off a deployment right as the evaluators came and the spousal support was phenomenal."

Aviano competed against the best of the best. Ramstein Air Base, Germany, won at the Air Force level two years ago. Because Ramstein's fuels flight received the American Petroleum Institute award, they did not compete last year.

This year Ramstein was the other base the evaluators visited.

"We were going up against the Air Force champion, and we beat the champion," Sergeant Brock said. "I can't be more proud or excited for our flight."

## Operation Angel Tree grants holiday wishes

By Staff Sgt. Mark Trail  
31st Logistics Readiness Squadron

The Aviano Air Force Sergeants Association is holding Operation Angel Tree through Monday.

The angel tree helps Aviano members give back to the community by providing for Aviano families experiencing financial difficulties during the holiday season.

Recipients privacy is protected. The only information provided to AFSA is the children's clothing sizes, their age and sex. The information is recorded on gift tags hung on the angel tree located at the commissary entrance.

Patrons pick a tag and purchase a gift. The gifts, along with the tag are given to respective first sergeants. First sergeants deliver the gifts to AFSA members, who prepare them for delivery.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Bradley West at Ext. 2021, Staff Sgt. Jessica Schwen at Ext. 8383 or Staff Sgt. Kara Opperman at Ext. 7484.

**Thrift shop:** The Aviano Thrift Shop is closed until Jan. 10 when it resumes hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

## Uplifting events available for Aviano Airmen

By Senior Airman  
Colleen Wronek  
31st Fighter Wing  
Public Affairs

Aviano members searching for enjoyable things to do during the next couple of months can look into Combat Touch programs available at Aviano.

Combat Touch ensures Airmen and family members are aware of programs, services and expertise available to aid spiritual growth.

"Some of these Airmen

are far from home, some are away from home for the first time, so we are trying to focus on them," said Chaplain (Col.) Jerry Houge, 31st Fighter Wing.

One program Combat Touch is involved in is Adopt-an-Airman.

"It's a chance for single, unaccompanied Airmen and single parents to spend the holidays with an adopted family," Chaplain Houge said.

People interested in Adopt-an-Airman can call Staff Sgt. Audrey Kiefer at Ext. 2741 or log onto the

Aviano Intranet and fill out the application form located at <https://avo-web/Publications/AAA/default.htm>.

On Dec. 30 the Refuge, located in Dorm 1424, is hosting a potluck. "Airmen are invited to cook their favorite dish in the kitchen area," Chaplain Houge said.

The Refuge provides a smoke- and alcohol-free gathering place and has computers with Internet access, phone service, a big screen TV and sound system for small social events.

The chaplains are visit-

ing Aviano members more this holiday season. "I believe we made every holiday party so far," Chaplain Houge said. "It gives us a chance to meet with the Airmen's family."

The chaplains will also participate in the Christmas Day meal from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the La Dolce Vita Dining Facility.

In January, Combat Touch is sponsoring a trip to Gardaland, an Italian amusement park.

For more information on spiritual needs, call the chapel at Ext. 5211.



# Oh Baby: Despite a deployment, one Aviano couple 'connects' for the birth of their daughter

By Senior Airman  
Sarah Gregory

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Having a baby can be an emotional, thrilling and sometimes scary experience. Even with a spouse, dealing with Lamaze classes, shopping for baby supplies and learning how to care for a baby can be daunting. Now imagine doing it all alone.

When they found out they were expecting, the Casillas family didn't plan on Cathryn having the baby by herself. But when Staff Sgt. Gilbert Casillas, 31st Maintenance Squadron, received his deployment orders, they learned how quickly plans can change.

"Gilbert asked his supervisor if he could stay behind, but we didn't want special treatment or any exceptions to be made for us, so we didn't use any other channels," said Mrs. Casillas.

Once the final decision came down that Sergeant Casillas would be deployed during the baby's birth, the news hit the Casillas family hard.

"There was always the hope that he'd be able to stay behind. It was really hard to realize he would be gone," said Mrs. Casillas. "But we knew the military was his job and he would have to go. It's important for people to keep their responsibilities and we knew if he didn't go, someone would



Photo by Senior Airman Sarah Gregory

Cathryn Casillas holds her new daughter, Lydia Elizabeth, born Dec. 8, while friend and Lamaze coach, Debbie Lee stands by her side.

have to go in his place."

Luckily for Mrs. Casillas, who is a sixth-grade teacher at Aviano Middle School, she had a major source of support in friend and co-worker Debbie Lee to help her through the Lamaze classes and in the delivery room.

"I've never been around a baby before, let alone a newborn, but my friend made me go through all the classes," said Mrs. Casillas. "Maj. [Debra] Egan has also been a huge support; she taught Debbie and me about what was actually going to happen, so we knew what to expect. If I hadn't had all the support from my friends and co-work-

ers through all this, I probably would have gone back to the states."

Despite all the help she was receiving, Mrs. Casillas wanted her husband to be involved in the birth of their child as well.

"We had asked the hospital about live-satellite feed, but they didn't have the capability, so the staff installed a phone in our room," she said.

Although Sergeant Casillas was on shift in the desert, he kept in contact with Debbie and Cathryn several times over the 27-hour labor.

"We had our own private 'Gilbert-Line' going on," laughed Debbie. "We kept thinking she was going to have the baby, but then nothing would happen. The staffs, both here and with Gilbert down-range, have been wonderful."

Even though he couldn't physically be in the room, Sergeant Casillas was still able to play an important role in the birth process.

"Since we didn't know the sex of the baby beforehand, we had a boy and a girl name already picked out. Gilbert got to hear the baby's cries and was the first to know the baby's sex and to tell the doctors her name," said Mrs. Casillas. "This way, he could at least be a part of the birth."

The name of the Casillas' new seven-pound, seven ounce addition: Lydia Elizabeth.

**Got tea?** On Dec. 16, 1773, American patriots boarded a British ship and dumped nearly 350 chests of tea into the Boston Harbor.

## Santa has company in gift-giving tradition

By Paolo Tarchi  
31st Fighter Wing  
Public Affairs

Aviano members experiencing the Italian culture for the first time may wonder who's bringing the gifts this holiday season.

While Santa Claus is recognized worldwide as the official toy giver at Christmas, Italians recognize at least four other traditional figures who bring gifts.

It all begins Dec. 6 with Saint Nicholas; not the traditional American Santa Claus figure, but a former bishop.

Saint Nicholas earned his gift-giving reputation by

providing three maidens with their dowry when he threw purses of gold through their windows. Now when he visits he leaves his gifts by the bed or on a table.

He is popular in Apulia, near San Vito dei Normanni; Bari, near Brindisi; Trieste and many villages in the Friuli region including Sacile and Fiume Veneto.

Saint Lucia arrives the week after Saint Nicholas' visit. Although she is considered the protectress of eyesight, during this time of the year she brings toys and sweets.

On the holy night, "Buon Natale," two figures bring presents — Gesu' Bambino

(the Holy Child) and Santa Claus. While Santa uses the well-known sleigh and reindeer, Gesu' Bambino provides presents at the manger that is set up in most houses.

Another tradition, which comes from the Milan area, is to leave milk on the kitchen table for Gesu' Bambino and hay for the donkey that he and his mother Mary are riding on. In thanks for the food, Mary leaves candy.

The most traditional gift giver in the Venetian area, including Aviano, is Befana. This old and unsightly woman appears on Epiphany Eve, the night of Jan. 5. Even though she's horrible-looking

and made humpbacked by a basket of toys, Befana is not a witch, but rather truly good.

According to legend, La Befana still seeks the Christ child because she felt guilty for not accompanying the three wise men to see him when they invited her. Her blackened appearance comes from entering homes through the chimney, where she leaves goodies in the socks hung on the mantle for good children and coal or stones for naughty children.

La Befana's appearance also signals the end of the Italian Christmas season, and then it's back to the daily routine for parents and children.

# HEALING HANDS

The Health and Wellness Center's physical therapists bend, lift and sooth Aviano's aches, pains away

**By Senior Airman Sarah Gregory**  
31st Fighter Wing  
Public Affairs

The fast-paced, demanding lifestyle of the military can sometimes lead to physical discomforts; the strain of carrying gear, keeping in shape and hauling equipment can cause wear and tear on a body.

The Health and Wellness Center has a physical therapy clinic to help Aviano members recover from injuries and gain their strength back.

Physical therapy provides health care services to patients of all ages and health conditions. "Physical therapists do everything from working with infants who have birth defects, helping patients with burns and wounds to prevent abnormal scarring and loss of movement to helping patients with lower back problems so their pain is reduced and function is restored," said Capt. Mark McElroy, 31st Aerospace Medical Squadron.

Although physical therapists can help people with a wide range of injuries, the Aviano clinic specializes in cases that are orthopedic in nature.

"We see a lot of shoulder and knee problems; many of which are a result of train-

ing improperly or muscle imbalances," Captain McElroy said. "We also see many patients come to the clinic with pain related to the lower back, neck, ankle, elbow and wrist."

To help people gain strength and mobility, the physical therapy staff offers a number of exercises, the use of equipment and educational classes.

"There are stationary bikes, treadmills, a total gym and a stair stepper which are all used for the rehabilitation of patients. There are also tables for mechanical cervical and lumbar traction," said Captain McElroy. "We have a complete line of weightlifting equipment used to help patients regain their full strength more quickly."

Using electrical, ultrasound, heat, cold and joint mobilization therapy techniques, the clinic staff helps strengthen, relax and heal muscles.

"We make use of iontophoresis electrodes, which uses electrical currents to drive ions of chemicals through the skin and into the body tissues. Among other injuries, iontophoresis electrodes can be used to treat tendonitis," said Captain McElroy.

In addition to orthopedic cases, the clinic staff also performs post-surgical rehab-



Photos by Airman Nathan Doza

Capt. Mark McElroy, 31st Aerospace Medical Squadron, examines Cecilia Griego, prior to treating her with ultrasound therapy for her neck injury.

ilitation, conducts work-site evaluations to help reduce job-related injuries and holds educational classes for back pain and knee pain.

Whether it's helping someone learn how to improve their running style or ease their chronic pain, the physical therapy clinic is all about improving the Aviano

community's wellbeing.

"I like helping people and seeing the difference in their health and welfare that physical therapy provides," said Captain McElroy. "Also, people in the military usually want to get better, so they'll do what you tell them to do; whatever it takes for them to get better, they'll do it."



Photo by Airman Nathan Doza

## Interested in a career in physical therapy?

Becoming a physical therapist takes dedication and focus said Captain McElroy. "You have to be interested in health sciences, because a majority of the curriculum consists of algebra, chemistry, physics, anatomy and biology," he said. "The math is important because physical therapists have to measure the angles of joint movement, present and alignment."

(Left:) First Lt. Andrew Wojtalewicz, 31st Operation Support Squadron, receives cervical traction therapy at the Health and Wellness Center Dec. 13.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Randy Mallard

### Cheers!

Brig. Gen. Robert Yates, 31st Fighter Wing commander, and Mrs. Yates offer a toast at the local national commander's call Tuesday.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti

### A bright idea

Tech. Sgt. Dennis Marsalek, 31st Civil Engineer Squadron, was awarded a check for \$10,000 from the Air Force's IDEA program. Sergeant Marsalek's idea prevents further corrosion to aircraft during washing and saves the Air Force \$75,000 a year.

### Got milk?

Karine Kucej, left, Jill Butterfield, center, and Janet Neilsen prepare pans of cookie dough for baking. More than 769 dozen cookies were handed out to dorm residents and base agencies. "The Aviano people were just wonderful. We couldn't have done this without the help of our volunteers who made the cookies at home, made dough, baked, wrapped and delivered," said Mrs. Kucej.



Photo by Airman Nathan Doza

### Let it snow!

Dressed as Frosty the Snowman, Barb Yates tosses snow at the Aviano Civilians' and Officers' Spouses Club fashion show Dec. 8.

# Aviano in Pictures

From baking cookies to handing out award money, Aviano Airmen have been celebrating the holiday season in style.



Photo by 1st Lt. Jen Ferrau



## Christmas choir

The Aviano Community Holiday Choir hosts a free traditional musical and theater Christmas celebration at 3:30 p.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. Monday in the base theater. For more information, contact Robin Watts at 348-520-0655 or [hendonwatts@hotmail.com](mailto:hendonwatts@hotmail.com) or Joni Johnston at 0434-553-625 or [joniann@hotmail.com](mailto:joniann@hotmail.com).

## Holiday concert

The Aviano Community Music Club hosts a free holiday concert at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the base theater.

## Children's parties

The 31st Civil Engineer Squadron Children's Christmas party is from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Dec. 17. For more information, call 349-358-6886.

The 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Spouses' Group hosts a holiday party for all 31st AMXS children from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday in Bldg. 168, Area One. Party events include

crafts, games and prizes for all ages and a visit from Santa. For more information or to RSVP, e-mail [AMXSspouses@yahoo.com](mailto:AMXSspouses@yahoo.com).

## CPO closure

The Civilian Personnel Office is closed Dec. 23 and Dec. 26 for the holidays. The office will reopen Dec. 27.

## Vet clinic hours

The Aviano Veterinary Clinic is closed Dec. 23, 26, 29, 30 and Jan. 1 and 2. It will open with normal operating hours Dec. 27 and 28. Call Ext. 8485 for further information.

## Holiday meal

A Christmas Day meal is served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 25 in the La Dolce Vita Dining Facility. The meal is open to all 31st Fighter Wing members including spouses of deployed members.

## Holiday services

Aviano's holiday Protes-

tant services include a family candlelight Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. Dec. 24 with communion at 9 p.m.; an 8:30 a.m. liturgical service and a 10 a.m. contemporary service Dec. 25; a 10 a.m. gospel service Dec. 25 in the base theater; and a 10 p.m. watch night service Dec. 31 in the Chapel. Aviano's holiday Catholic services include Christmas mass at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 24; midnight mass and mass at 11:30 a.m. Dec. 25; mass at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 31; and mass at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 1.

## No Right Start

There is no Right Start Dec. 27 through 30. For more information, call Ext. 5683.

## Bonus changes

Airmen eligible to receive the enlisted critical skills retention bonus can now re-enlist at any time. If eligible Airmen have a year left on their current enlistment, the updated CSRB program allows service time to be waived, which clears the way for Airmen to re-enlist and receive the bonus. CSRB program changes will remain in effect until Dec. 31, 2007. The CSRB program is open to technical sergeants and above with at least 19 but not more than 24 years of service. For more eligibility requirements, visit <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil> or call the military personnel flight at Ext. 7216.

## Heritage month

The Martin Luther King Jr. birthday and African American Heritage Month special observance committees meet 3 p.m. Wednesdays in the second floor conference room in Bldg. 103, Area One. People interested can attend the meetings or call Ext. 5242 or Ext. 5219.

## Fellowship program

Military personnel may apply by Jan. 15 for the White House Fellowship Program. Applying Airmen must obtain written

endorsement and authorization from the first colonel in their chain of command. They must also have completed all developmental or professional military education appropriate to their rank. For more information, visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/fellows/> or call the Military Personnel Flight at Ext. 7216.

## Combat Education

Registration for the University of Maryland University College-Europe term three classes beginning Jan. 16 is from Jan. 2 through Jan. 13. Students may register online or through local representatives. On-site classes run from Jan. 16 through March 11 and online distance education run from Jan. 23 to May 13.

## Hometown greeting

People who taped a holiday hometown greeting in September and have received feedback from their family are encouraged to e-mail 1st Lt. Jen Ferrau at [jennifer.ferrau@aviano.af.mil](mailto:jennifer.ferrau@aviano.af.mil) for an article on the success of the program and personal experiences.

## Scholarship program

The Air Force is offering qualified officers a master's degree in the Information Assurance Scholarship Program. Students must apply by Jan. 3. Those who complete the IASP will receive the National Security Telecommunications and Information Systems Security Instruction 4011 certificate. Information on eligibility requirements, application submission and participating schools can be found at <http://www.defenselink.mil/nii/iasp/DoDMembers-Main.htm>.

## Marquee messages

To advertise upcoming events on the Area F marquee, send event information including date, time, place and contact number to [31fwmarquee@aviano.af.mil](mailto:31fwmarquee@aviano.af.mil).

## Reel Times

**Today, 5 p.m.** - "Into the Blue" Rated PG-13 - Four divers discover a legendary shipwreck and a sunken plane full of illegal cargo. They promise to keep the discoveries secret until their plan goes awry. Starring: Paul Walker, Jessica Alba

**Today, 8 p.m.** - "The Weather Man" Rated R - A weatherman going through hard times discovers life is like the weather, it's completely unpredictable. Starring: Nicolas Cage, Michael Caine

**Saturday, 7 p.m.** - "Lord of War" Rated R - An arms dealer schemes his way to the top only to come face to face with his conscience. But it's not easy to leave a life of girls, guns and glamour when nobody wants him to stop, not even his enemies. Starring: Nicolas Cage, Jared Leto

**Tuesday, 7 p.m.** - "Two for the Money" Rated R - A college football player gets into the sports gambling business and is recruited by one of the best sports-bookings operations in the country. Starring: Al Pacino, Rene Russo

**Wednesday, 7 p.m.** - "The Weather Man" Rated R

**Thursday, 7 p.m.** - "Lord of War" Rated R

*(Titles and times are courtesy of [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com), and are subject to change.)*



### Fly Bys

#### Local area events

**Now through Dec. 24, and Dec. 27 through Jan. 15** - Christmas market in Bussolengo (Verona). The market is open from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 3 to 7:30 p.m. daily and has an atmosphere of older times. For more information, visit <http://www.ilvillaggiodinatale.it>.

**Dec. 25-26** - Sesto al Reghena. The living nativity in the ancient Benedictine abbey where the birth of Christ is re-enacted.

**Dec. 28** - In Tarvisio, the church remembers the slaughter of the innocents by Herod by celebrating Schip Schap. Children armed with wooden sticks run around town singing the Schip Schap riddle.

#### Tourist passports

Having a tourist passport when traveling outside Italy is the safest way to travel. Information, Tickets and Travel passengers must have a tourist passport to travel to Poland, Croatia, Slovenia, Russia, Romania, Hungary, Czech Republic, Turkey, Tunisia, Egypt, Israel and Kenya. Passports may be obtained at the Aviano Military Personnel Flight.

#### Project Smart travel tips

- When traveling around Europe, remember to avoid carrying handbags and fanny packs; they are easy targets for theft.

- To avoid being a target of crime, try not to wear conspicuous clothing and expensive jewelry and don't carry excessive amounts of money or unnecessary credit cards. Visit <http://travel.state.gov> to get the latest travel advisories in Europe.

## From Germanic culture to a frozen mummy Bolzano is a unique Alpine city

**By Senior Airman  
Colleen Wronek**  
*31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

**T**here's still time to Christmas shop, and a great place to go shopping is Bolzano, Italy.

Just four hours north of Aviano, Bolzano's Christmas market in Piazza Walther has the feel of a German Christmas market with Italian style.

Bolzano, located in Alto Adige, is 48 miles from the Venner Pass and Austria. Although Bolzano became a part of Italy within the past century, the city's culture, food, language and architecture are of Germanic style. Traditional foods include speck and schnitzel and the primary language is German.

The market sells ornaments, handcrafted items, meats and cheeses, mulled wine and other beautiful treasures that make wonderful gifts.

Bolzano has a lot more to offer than just the Christmas market. The city is very scenic with beautiful mountain views and several castles, cathedrals and museums.

Most Bolzano visitors see Otzi, the iceman who resides in the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology. More than 5,000 years ago, he climbed up the Schnalstal glacier and died. He quickly became a frozen mummy. Miraculously, all his organs and belongings were preserved by glacial temperatures.

He was discovered by two hikers in the Otzal Alps in September 1991. The preservation of the iceman, his clothing and equipment gives a glimpse of prehistoric life and the early Copper Age. Otzi is on display in a special chamber that is designed to recreate the climate where he was found. The museum documents all



Photo by Senior Airman Colleen Wronek

Bolzano is filled with Germanic influences including its language, food, architecture and Christmas market in Piazza Walther.

the research conducted on Otzi and his belongings (they even know his last meal!) and the Copper Age. The museum also brings together the archaeological finds of the South Tyrol that document the history of the alpine region – from the Stone Age all the way through the early Middle Ages.

Whether it's shopping, enjoying the city's culture or taking a trip through time in the archeological museum, Bolzano has something for just about everyone.

**Travel information:** Check out [www.freetraveltips.com](http://www.freetraveltips.com) for tips on taking cruises, traveling with children and more.



Courtesy photo

**Rome** is home to the Colosseum which stands 160 feet tall and was once home to the gladiator games.

## Information, Tickets and Travel

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- Saturday - Sparkling wine tasting in Veneto region
- Saturday - Christmas Markets in Munich, Germany
- Dec. 24 - Slovenian Rhapsody (Ljubljana, Postumia caves and Castle)
- Dec. 24 - 26 - Rome for Christ-

mas including Vatican Christmas Mass

- Dec. 31 - Jan. 1 - New Year's Eve in Vienna

ITT escorts ensure the group arrives and departs from the destination as scheduled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable. Escorts also provide general information about the area. Call Ext. 5072 or 5026 for more information.

# Tour Italy from a mountain bike

**By Tech. Sgt. Jerome Baysmore**  
*31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

The 31st Services Squadron's Outdoor Recreation has specials for Wingman Wednesday such as two for the price of one discounts, but if you want to ride in tomorrow's mountain bike ride, turn to the Aviano Draghi.

The local bike ride is scheduled to start at 10:30 a.m. from the Area One Community Center; participants are asked to prepare themselves for the weather and bring Euro for rest stops and snack purchases.

The Draghi pedaled into existence in 2003 and have been rolling in local mountain bike rides and other European competitions ever since.

"The idea of the group rides was a collection of ideas shared by myself and a couple of my closest cycling friends," said Jason Patton, Aviano Draghi president.

"Those ideas derived from the U.S. Armed Forces in Europe Mountain Bike Championship Series races."

The Aviano Draghi cycling club was soliciting support to offset race entry fees and travel costs for race competition when the club felt the need to offer something back to

the community in return.

"We had also requested support from 31st Services Squadron Outdoor Recreation to organize more cycling events throughout the year," he said.

"In return, they requested we co-host rides they could advertise as re-occurring events on their calendar.

"This came in the form of safety checks and bike tune-up clinics as well as hosting leisure-paced mountain bike and road bike outings for beginners and enthusiasts. If because of us someone rides or races a bicycle more often, we've succeeded."

The group is open to anyone with a bike, a desire to see more of Italy and push themselves to better fitness.

Patton explained the bulk of the Aviano Draghi activity surrounds around 10 people who participate in races throughout the year.

"Because of their higher level of fitness it's tough for new riders to find themselves among the group," he said.

"We're always looking for new faces to share the surrounding cycling community with; the group events allow a place for those new riders to find us and for us to find them."

**Fun run:** The Reindeer 5K Fun Run leaves the Dragon Fitness Center at 11:30 a.m. today.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti

### Combat run

Brig. Gen. Robert Yates, 31st Fighter Wing commander, left, and Col. Steven Schrader, 31st FW vice commander, lead the combat run here Dec. 8.

## Fly Bys

### Gift certificates

The Area Two Fitness Center offers massage gift certificates for loved ones this holiday season. For more information or an appointment, call 348-364-0684.

### Sports lessons

The Outdoor Recreation office is taking names for ski and snowboard lessons until Tuesday. Lessons are scheduled to begin later this month. For more information, call Ext. 8623.

### Youth basketball

Aviano Youth Program is open for youth basketball registration Jan. 3 through 6. Cost is \$40 for members and \$45 non-members. The AYP is also looking for coaches. For more information, call Ext. 7575.

### Bowling bash

The Aviano Youth Program bowl and burrito bash is from noon to 4 p.m. Jan. 7. The bash is open to 1st-6th graders, and participants must sign up by Jan. 4. Cost is \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members.

### Help wanted

The Aviano Dragon Fitness Center has openings for personal trainers and certified aerobic instructors. The staff is also looking for instructors wishing to pursue their certification. For more information, call Jennifer Kellner or Scott Bishaw at Ext. 7459.

### Skate park safety

Skaters are required to wear a helmet, and other protective gear is strongly recommended when in the skate park. Anyone ages 11 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

### Personal trainer

The Dragon Fitness Center offers one-on-one training for those looking to increase their fitness level. For more information, call Jennifer Kellner at 0434-74-7170 or e-mail [jennifersgym@yahoo.com](mailto:jennifersgym@yahoo.com).

# Tis the season ... to prevent the flu

*"We've done a great job vaccinating our Aviano Airmen. Remember, the greater your risk, the greater the benefit of vaccination."*

**By Lt. Col. John Degoes**  
31st Medical Operations Squadron

A harmless sneeze, then a sore throat, headache, cough, and a high fever and before you know it you're in bed with a 55-gallon drum of mom's chicken soup. With symptoms like that, you probably have the flu.

Hopefully, you're young and healthy because if you're not, you stand a chance of hospitalization or even dying. Even with the great technological advances of modern medicine, more than 200,000 people in the United States are hospitalized with flu complications and 36,000 die each year. People with underlying medical problems, children under age two, people over 65 and pregnant women are at highest risk during the flu season.

The best way to prevent the flu is to get vaccinated each fall. The flu vaccine is not perfect since it's made of flu strains expected during the year. The effectiveness of the vaccine is at least 80 percent and, contrary to urban legend, it can't give you the flu.

We've done a great job vaccinating our Aviano Airmen! Now we are focusing on vaccinating family members, retirees, and those with high risk of catching the flu. Remember, the greater your risk, the

greater the benefit of vaccination.

Some people may not be able to receive the flu vaccine due to an egg allergy. For those people, we have anti-flu viral medications which may shorten the course of the flu and lessen its severity. If you have any questions, call or see your doctor.

To keep yourself and your family at maximum health and readiness, avoid close contact with sick people and when you are sick, keep your distance from others. Cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing and wash hands frequently to prevent germs from spreading. The flu and many other respiratory viral diseases are spread through the air or by hands such as when you touch something contaminated and then touch your eyes, nose or mouth.

If you want to increase the chances for merrier and healthier holidays for you and your loved ones, make sure they get vaccinated, particularly if they are high risk. There is no vaccine shortage this year. While we continue to focus on those at highest risk, any military beneficiary eligible for care who wants to reduce their chance of getting the flu may be vaccinated. Visit the immunizations clinic in Area One from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Prevention is still the best medicine and a force multiplier.

## Finest, from page 3

Aviano Air Base, the 31st Fighter Wing, the U.S. Air Force, and the USA.

In this business, it's easy to lose focus on the big picture as you pursue 'world's finest' status in your chosen vocation.

When this happens, someone needs to remind you of the vital contribution you make to freedom and democracy the world over. You live and breathe both of these ... while many are denied either.

You have committed your very lives to defending these prin-

ciples and the constitution. You departed your homes, most at a tender age, to join a cause bigger than yourself, and you're doing a bang-up job!

So, just like the nice lady who restored my positive spirit above, I wanted to tell you all – "There's so much good going on among the world's finest because of all the good you all are doing." Thank you.

So this weekend, take time to smile, recount your achievements and enjoy yourself. Enjoy your time with family and friends. Enjoy

the season, and your freedom to say and celebrate what you wish when you wish; many others cannot exercise these rights. Enjoy your Italian holiday season – you may not have the chance again next year – and remember those who are protecting freedom for us right now, separated from their loved ones. Have a safe, warm and festive weekend: Don't drink and drive, conduct yourself appropriately, and God Bless. See y'all rarin' to go on the "World's Finest Ranch" first thing Monday morning!



## The Cornerstone

An indispensable and fundamental basis

The Cornerstone Page is devoted to those who support junior enlisted, NCOs, CGOs and spouses. It's to share advice, ideas and opinions dealing with life in the Air Force and Aviano. It's also a forum to recognize those around us. The Cornerstone Page will also offer Air Force trivia and facts.

**Submission info:** We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with us and the community.

**Commentaries:** Writers can send commentaries to [vigileer@aviano.af.mil](mailto:vigileer@aviano.af.mil). Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

**Kudos:** Aviano members can send congratulatory messages to [Vigileer@aviano.af.mil](mailto:Vigileer@aviano.af.mil). Messages can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

**Deadline:** The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is in Bldg. 1360, Room 19.